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- F. Y. Edgeworth. "Entomological Statistics"—a continuation of the author's studies already published in other places on the average duration of expeditions of wasps from the nest.
- C. Gini. "La coscrizione militare dal punto di vista eugenico." Gini shows that conscripts marry later, but have more children than those excused from military service. Military conscription in Italy, therefore, is not necessarily dysgenic in its results.
- G. H. Knibbs. "The theory of large population-aggregates." Knibbs points out that constant rate of increase of population cannot continue for long, owing to limitation of natural resources, and that pressure of population is an important cause of war.
- G. Zingali. "Della misura statistica dell' abilita dei giocatori nelle corse al galoppo." This novel paper attempts to evaluate, for whatever purposes the reader may care to put the results to, the relative abilities of jockeys performing in the principal Italian racing classics.
- J. Bourdon. "La fiscalité de guerre (discussion)"—a general discussion of certain economic problems of the late war.
- F. P. Cantelli. "Sulle applicazioni del calcolo delle probabilita alla fisica molecolare"—a résumé of the work of various investigators in the field of molecular physics.
- C. Gini. "Ridolfo Livi (1856-1920)"—an obituary of the eminent physical anthropologist with bibliography of his writings.

Altogether it is apparent that if the catholicity of interest and the high quality of the articles in this first number are maintained, the future of *Metron* is assured. The general appearance and the typography of the journal are excellent. There is one editorial matter which should be changed. Following a somewhat general but not universal Italian practice, the author's name is placed at the end of his article instead of at the beginning. From a working bibliographic standpoint such an arrangement is most unfortunate. Whatever, if anything, may be said in its favor in a purely literary journal or review, it has no place in a scientific journal.

An examination of this first number makes it apparent that *Metron* will fill a real gap in statistical literature and will be required on the library shelves of every serious worker in statistical fields.

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#### AN EMPLOYMENT INDEX FOR WISCONSIN

The Industrial Commission of Wisconsin, beginning July, 1920, has been collecting monthly data on employment conditions. There are reporting about 170 employers with over 80,000 shop employees—about 30 per cent of the total number employed in the state—and a weekly payroll of \$2,500,000. The data will be handled in much the same manner as it is in the *New York Labor Market Bulletin*. The number of employees and the total payroll will be compared each month, and average earnings will be compared with the cost of living. The Wisconsin bulletin, however, will differ from the New York bulletin in two respects: the material will be presented in a less technical manner, and instead of the retail food price index of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, a monthly cost-of-living index, which will be constructed from the semi-annual cost-of-living index of the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics as modified by the monthly changes in the cost of living reported by the National Industrial Conference Board, will be used.

The first bulletin, issued in October, contains two graphs which show the trend of employment since January, 1915. It was possible to secure data as far back as 1915, from employers representing between 15 and 20 per cent of the payroll of the state.

One graph shows total number employed and total wages paid from January, 1915, to July, 1920. During this period the number of employees increased 43 per cent and the total wages paid increased 257 per cent. This graph is in general agreement with the New York one. There is the same sharp drop in number of employees and wages paid during the spring of 1919, the subsequent recovery up to March, 1920, and the gradual decline since that month. The other graph compares average weekly earnings with retail food prices during the same period. Earnings in July, 1920, show an increase of 150 per cent over January, 1915, while food prices show an increase of only 112 per cent.

This work is in charge of A. J. Altmeyer, Chief Statistician of the Wisconsin Industrial Commission, Madison, Wis., from whom copies of the bulletins as issued may be secured.

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#### THE SIGNIFICANCE OF SOME RECENT SMALLPOX STATISTICS FOR THE PACIFIC COAST

Recent statistics of smallpox in the Pacific Coast states will be interesting to members of the Association. In California during 1917, 329 cases were reported; in 1918 there were 1,172, and in 1919, 2,001. In relation to population, the situation in Oregon was even worse. In 1917, 122 cases were registered; in 1918 there were 497; and in 1919, 2,626 smallpox notifications were received by the health authorities. In the state of Washington during 1917 there were 390 cases; during 1918 there were 1,676, and during 1919, 4,369.

Yet, in the face of this great increase in the prevalence of the disease, certain groups in the Pacific Coast communities have this year conducted campaigns for anti-vaccination constitutional amendments in California and in Oregon. Each would take from the constituted health authorities the scant police powers they now possess to control the smallpox menace. In California, the anti-vaccination amendment to the state constitution was so drawn that health officers would not be permitted to keep from schools and other places of instruction and from public offices not only those who had not been satisfactorily vaccinated against smallpox but also those who were actually suffering from a mild attack of smallpox or other infectious disease. The Oregon amendment was even more drastic in its terms. There it was proposed to prohibit "vaccination, inoculation or other form of medication" as a condition of entrance or attendance at any school, college, educational institution, or as a condition of "the employment of any person in any capacity, or for the exercise of any right, the performance of any duty or the enjoyment of any privilege." The amendment would repeal all provisions constitutional, statutory, municipal, of charter or ordinance in conflict with it. As "medication" would, in all likelihood, include any sanitary measure which a health officer might exercise in the performance of his duties, the effect of the passage of this amendment would be to prevent the removal and isolation of any person suffering from smallpox in a lumber camp, or of a child sick with diphtheria and attending school, or of a teacher in an advanced stage of tuberculosis at work among his or her pupils. The advocates of these anti-vaccination amendments have for many years worked covertly, but in the present political campaign they chose to challenge public health work in the open. Both those who were animated by sincere if misguided conviction, and those who profit financially from discrediting public health work, have had the confidence to come out openly for a test of power.\*

There is a strong statistical argument in favor of vaccination. The experience of

\* Since the above was written, the people of California and of Oregon have defeated the anti-health amendments referred to by unmistakable majorities.